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FARMERS' INSTITUTES, 1928

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Cooperative Extension Work in Agriculture and Home Economics

Extension Service Circular 102. April, 1929.

FARMERS' INSTITUTES, 1928

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During the fiscal year ended June 30, 1928 farmers' institutes were officially conducted as a State-wide activity in 13 States. This is two States more than held farmers' institutes last year.

As indicative of the desire of farmers in several States to have farmers' institutes in addition to the newer methods of extension or county agent work, attention is called to the fact that in Iowa the State appropriation for farmers' institutes amounting to $4,323.96 was supplemented by farmers and other local people in the neighborhood of the institutes contributing to the extent of $17,714.49 which is over four times the State aid. In Georgia the State appropriation used for farmers' institutes was augmented by twice its amount from private donations, while in Indiana private contributions of $19,650.70 amounted to nearly one and a half times as much as the State funds spent for farmers' institute work. In Ohio State farmers' institute funds were almost met by private donations amounting to $16,185.85.

No changes have occurred either in the conduct or in the management of farmers' institutes during the year. In Illinois, Iowa, and Maine, the only States holding farmers' institutes that are conducted and managed by agencies other than the extension service at the colleges of agriculture, the institutes are so completely lined up with the county agent and other extension forces that they simply supplement, reinforce and support the organized extension program just as is being done in those States where farmers' institutes are conducted and managed by the extension service at the college of agriculture. The State colleges of agriculture are therefore now supreme and in sole command of the agricultural extension program, progress, and trend in their respective States.

Controlled through State Departments

In the three States where farmers' institutes are directed and managed by the State department of agriculture or, as in Illinois, by an independent State department of farmers' institutes, 573 institutes were held this year lasting 849 days with 2,154 sessions at which the attendance was 258,407

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persons. The instruction was given by 420 persons of whom 119 were members of the extension service, 40 from the experiment station staff, 20 from the State departments of agriculture and 241 were mostly farmers and farm women engaged for the purpose because of noteworthy accomplishments on their own farms or in their own homes. The total cost of these institutes was $64,423.55 derived from special State appropriations for the purpose amounting to $39,993.96 and $24,429.59 contributed by farmers and other local people in the neighborhood of the institutes.

In comparison with the previous year's report of farmers' institutes conducted by State departments, this year shows an increase in the number of institutes, days conducted, sessions held and attendance at the meetings but at a less total cost.

Controlled through Colleges of Agriculture

The ten States conducting farmers' institutes this year under the direction of the colleges of agriculture held a total of 1,972 institutes, which lasted 2,971 days, comprised 6,872 sessions, and were attended by 1,095,436 persons. They employed 339 instructors of whom 117 were members of the extension force, 34 of the experiment station staffs, 8 from the State departments of agriculture, and 180 from other sources, mostly farmers and farm women hired for the purpose during the institute season. The cost of these institutes was $111,378.59. Of this amount $73,542.07 was derived from State appropriations for the purpose and $37,836.52 from other sources, mostly local contributions by farmers and others in the regions of the meetings.

In comparison with the previous year's report of farmers' institutes conducted by the colleges of agriculture, this year shows a slight gain in the number of sessions held with an increase of 133,225 persons in attendance and more funds expended for this enterprise.

All States Holding Farmers' Institutes

The thirteen States conducting farmers' institutes this year held an aggregate of 2,545 institutes, extending over a period of 3,820 days and comprising 9,026 sessions, at which a total of 1,353,843 persons were in attendance. The instruction at these institutes was given by 759 persons, of whom 236 were members of extension staffs, 74 were from experiment station staffs, 28 from State departments of agriculture, and 421 from outside sources. Those from outside sources were mostly actual practicing farmers and farm women, selected and hired during the institute season because of their success and reputation for having actually done the thing on their own farms or in their own homes under normal conditions, as well as for their ability to tell others how they did it. Farmers have confidence in and appreciate such instruction and are more likely to put their teachings into practice, because they are less skeptical regarding practicability. The cost of these institutes was $175,802.14, of which $113,536.03 was from State appropriation and $62,266.11 from local contributions.

Farmers' institute work differs in quality as well as in quantity in the several States. A detailed statement of the number of farmers' institutes conducted and the extent of their work during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1928 will be found in the accompanying tables in which States are grouped according to the two sources of management.

Farmers' institutes conducted by the State departments of agriculture, year ended June 30, 1928

State	Number of institutes	Total number of days conducted	Total number of sessions	Total attendance	Number of different persons who gave lectures					Amount of State appropriations used	Amount of of other funds used
					From extension staff	From experiment sta. staff	From State dept. agri. staff	From special force employed for institutes	Total number of lecturers		
Ill.	198	319	1,276	123,831		40	8	118	166	$32,670.00	$ 6,715.10
Iowa	78	233	528	109,220	119			120	239	4,323.96	17,714.49
Maine	297	297	350	25,356			12	3	15	3,000.00	
Total											
1928	573	849	2,154	258,407	119	40	20	241	420	39,993.96	24,429.59
1927	275	545	1,415	201,034	3	37	5	129	454[1]	68,032.53	14,000.00
1926	119	1,061	2,256	192,756	--	37	12	172	464[1]	70,021.46	31,452.96
1925	890	1,451	2,434	409,693	13	34	30	204	431[1]	23,182.58	31,308.06
1924	1313	1,642	2,809	412,257	215	56	62	178	511	22,341.01	--------

[1] Includes lecturers from other sources than those mentioned.

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Farmers' institutes conducted by the extension division of the colleges of agriculture year ended June 30, 1928

State	Number of institutes	Total number of days conducted	Total number of sessions	Total attendance	Number of different persons who gave lectures					Amount of State appropriation used	Amount of other funds used
					From extension staff	From experiment staff	From State dept. agri. staff	From special force employed for institutes	Total number of lecturers		
Ga.	36	36	108	20,545	14				14	$ 1,000.00	$ 2,000.00
Ind.	456	524	1,176	177,912	7	6		40	53	13,462.81	19,650.70
Kans.	10	19	32	5,381	11	5		1	17	326.70	
Nebr.	11	18	46	7,923	6			1	7		
N.Y.	75	75	116	4,121	9			8	17	3,716.37	
Ohio	804	1,479	3,748	716,818	1	2		86	89	17,026.40	16,185.82
S.D.	79	137	218	27,829	12	3		4	19	6,309.79	
Tenn.	3	7	14	6,300	5	4	2	8	19	1,700.00	
Wis.	480	653	1,368	122,405	29	6	3	32	70	30,000.00	
Wyo.	18	23	46	6,202	23	8	3		34		
Total											
1923	1,972	2,971	6,872	1,095,436	117	34	8	180	339	73,542.07	37,836.52
1927	1,985	2,880	6,603	962,211	104	12	8	184	308	59,645.74	28,452.53
1926	2,130	2,934	6,556	969,864	93	15	3	215	326	63,022.83	25,139.60
1925	1,860	2,837	6,508	1,011.399	181	32	12	218	443	63,680.27	28,448.75
1924	2,201	3,479	7,578	1,062,709	405	45	33	223	706	68,125.75	30,741.28

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